

To whom it may concern,

My name is Amber, and I'm a teenage mother who has been helped tremendously through the Even Start Program. I'm not sure how school would be going for me if I had not found out about it. I began in the program in my Junior year when my son was 6 months old. One of the major benefits I had was them providing my child with free daycare as long as I attended the class. It has helped me to be able to focus on school and not have to worry about who was going to watch him. Without the program I would have to work a minimum of 25 hours a week just to cover the cost of daycare. Now I have more time to spend with my son and take care of my school work.

Another benefit of this program for me is getting the help of Two Hearts. They help with almost anything I need. This includes diapers, wipes, clothes, books and more. Everyone who works there is really nice and supportive. Without having to spend as much money on these items, I'm left with more to spend on other things such as medicine for him, food, and toys. It has been a major weight lifted off of my shoulders. Also, not having to work as many hours has made my grades improve by a lot.

This is now my second year in the program. I am a Senior in high school, graduating at second in my class, I was accepted into Uconn and plan to be a nurse. I am so glad to have had the help of Even Start. I'm honestly not sure what I would have done had they not been there for me these past two years. I'd really love if the funding for this continued because it can make a major difference. Not just in the life of the parent, but also the child.

--Amber Sans